



Candidate: Bonnie Carol McGrath

Cook County Circuit Court, Hayes Vacancy

Legal Resume

Legal Experience

1) **Prosecutor**, City of Chicago, 1992-1996--prosecuted hundreds of cases in Traffic, Vehicle Impoundment, and had occasional matters in Chancery, Housing and Appeals.

--Co-wrote training manual on prosecuting traffic cases

--Wrote articles about traffic prosecution in Cook County

--Became an expert in Chicago's vehicle impoundment ordinances; was frequent consultant to chancery judges on the subject, as well as the city prosecutors of Flint, Michigan in preparing the town's landmark US Supreme Court case; made appearance on MSNBC on the subject of vehicle seizure; spoke on the subject to bar association meetings and at IIT-Kent.

2) **Arbitrator**--Cook County Mandatory Arbitration, 1997 to present; have sat on nearly 300 panels, most as chair, ruling on objections as well as other matters involving the rules of evidence and civil procedure.

3) **Court-appointed attorney, Juvenile Court**--represented nine clients between 1997 and 2001.

4) **State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor**, contract attorney; represented the State in 30 appeals, most in the 2d district appellate court.

5) **Headed Civil Order of Protection Desk**, Maywood courthouse, 1996--2000--supervised a group of pro bono attorneys (some Rule 7-11s) representing domestic violence victims seeking civil orders of protection; this was done pro bono on behalf of the CBA and the courthouse. This program was recognized with an award by the ABA.

6) **First Defense Legal Aid**--represented scores of arrestees pro bono between 1996 and 2001 on behalf of the agency--which sought to provide legal representation at the earliest stages of a criminal case.

7) **CARPLS**--Counseled pro bono clients of the agency in matters of bankruptcy, employment discrimination, landlord-tenant and also provided post-decree representation in person at Daley Center in domestic relations.

8) **Solo Practice**--1996 to present; represented clients in a variety of matters--in addition to the aforementioned--including DUI, contract disputes, probation violations, not-for-profit, class actions, real estate, probate (GAL) and other areas. Have been referred cases by judges and law professors.

Bar Leadership

1) **Chicago Bar Association**

- Editorial Board member from 1993 to present
- Chair, Vice Chair, Criminal Law Committee, 1999-2001
- Legislative Liaison, several committees, from 1996--2001
- current member of a number of CBA committees
- Chair, YLS Bench-Bar Relations, 1994-1995

Pre-2000:

- Director, YLS
- Special Projects Coordinator, YLS
- Rapid Response Committee
- Public Affairs Committee
- Coordinated training for attorneys to represent LAF domestic relations cases
- Coordinated CBA attempt to provide minority mentoring to non-passage bar candidates
- Moderated 10 CLE seminars
- Chair, second-career lawyers committee,
- Dear Santa letter committee
- Women in the Law Committee
- Alliance for Women mentoring program
- Law & Literature Committee
- Traffic Laws Committee
- Women Everywhere volunteer
- Jury Film cast, YLS project for the circuit court

- Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges Committee, 2009

2) **Decalogue Society of Lawyers**, president 2000-2001; past presidents council, newsletter columnist, 1994-2009; coordinated CLE program on the death penalty, 2000 and on traffic and impoundment law, 1995, First Vice-President, Secretary, Nominating Committee.

3) **Women's Bar Association of Illinois**,

newsletter columnist from 1996-2000 and staff writer, 2003-2004; co-chair, boards and commissions committee, judicial evaluation committee, Women with Vision

Committee, Annual Dinner Committee, currently Chair, Legislative Committee, and co-chair, newsletter committee.

4) **Member,**

--ISBA--former Journal columnist 1997-2001 and seminar panelist, 2000, played a role in nominating laureates

--Appellate Lawyers Association

Past Law Committee Membership

- 1) Illinois Death Penalty Education Project
- 2) Cook County Clerk Bond Return Reform Committee
- 3) Ethnic Bar Coalition
- 4) Judicial Evaluation--WBAI, Decalogue, IVI
- 5) Hadassah Attorneys Council
- 6) Cook County Judicial Advisory Committee
- 7) DePaul Law School women's academic/law review reading group
- 8) Unity Dinner Committee, 2009

Academics/Teaching

- 1) Adjunct, Columbia College Chicago, 2004-2009
taught courts and law to graduate students in journalism; involved in the constant study and analysis of legal issues and court procedure; student evaluations are consistently high
--also taught media law and covering courts to undergrads, 2004--2007, as well as introduction to journalism and writing and reporting, 2004, 2007
- 2) taught legal research to paralegal candidates at Roosevelt University, 1997-1998
- 3) taught trial advocacy at Jones High School in preparation for city wide competition, 1994-2000
- 4) taught evidence--exceptions to the hearsay rule--in the trial advocacy course at the CBA
- 5) moderated panel on incarceration and redemption for the Chicago Humanities Festival, 2004

- 6) panelist, Illinois Academy of Criminology prison reform symposium, 2005
- 7) have judged moot court and trial court contests for Northwestern University Law School, John Marshall Law School, DePaul University Law School, Loyola University Chicago Law School and ABA nationwide competitions for approximately a dozen years
- 8) panelist on ISBA diversity program, 2000
- 9) have demonstrated an outstanding record of taking CLE courses through the years (up to 10 courses per year for 15 years)--even before the requirement. In addition to attending regular bar association meetings, moderating programs, etc., I have attended DUI training certification programs, ethics programs and arbitration update programs. I have moderated programs as diverse as the law of the lake to the ins and outs of collection cases, the basics of bankruptcy and motions in the law division. Some of the most recent CLE topics participated in include collateral remedies in criminal cases and an overview of polygraph testing in criminal cases. See full list below
- 10) Professional advisor, DePaul School for New Learning, 1990-1994
- 11) Moderated "debate" between the late Terry Foster, dean of DePaul University School of Law and retired judge Sheila Murphy on the Judeo-Christian religious aspects of the death penalty, Decalogue Society of Lawyers legal lecture series, 2000
- 12) Lectured on behalf of the Decalogue Society's legal lecture series on the traffic court procedure and vehicle impoundment law, 1994, 1996 and on those same subjects to the CBA Traffic Law Committee, 2005
- 13) Lectured on judicial politics, Sociology of Law, DePaul University, 1998
- 14) Lectured on the law of Vehicle Impoundment, IIT-Kent, Public Policy, 1996
- 15) Took part in the 2009 CBA Jury Selection Seminar as a "juror," helping practitioners learn the art of voir dire.

Legal Awards

- 1) CBA Herman Kogan Meritorious Achievement Award in Legal Journalism--1997, 1999, 2001
- 2) Pro Bono Award for Sole Practitioner, 1997
- 3) Pro Bono Leadership Award, 1998, 1999
- 4) Today's Chicago Woman 100 Women Making a Difference, 1995

5) Nominated for ABA Margaret Brent Award (by Marty Moltz, 1998) and the CBA Alta May Hulett Award (by Sally McDonald, 1998)

Other Awards

- 1) Peter Lisagor Award for outstanding journalism
- 2) Three Illinois Women's Press Association awards for best columns
- 3) Copley Bell Ring of Truth Award for best column

Legal Writing

- 1) Wrote conflicts chapter, CBA YLS ethics handbook and co-edited CBA YLS court handbook; co-wrote training manual for covering traffic cases for the City of Chicago
- 2) Columnist, 1997-2001, Illinois Bar Journal, "Lawyers Journal"
- 3) Columnist, Chicago Bar Record, 2001-2004, "Review of Reviews, co-written with Northwestern law professor Kathleen Dillon Narko
- 4) Columnist, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, 1997-2001, "After Hours" (highest readership rating) and also was a guest columnist as a bar leader
- 5) Editorial Board, CBA, 1993-present, up to 100 articles--including at least one article being cited in a law review article, and have edited a number of articles, as well
- 6) Chicago Tribune--voice of the people on judicial elections, 1998, 2000
- 7) Chicago Reader, 14 articles on legal topics
- 8) Member, Scribes (legal writers)
- 9) Staff writer, Decisive Utterance, JMLS, 1991-1992
- 10) Chicago Journal, columnist, currently, occasional legal topics, among many others
- 11) wrote a number of articles for the WBAI newsletter on substantive law topics, 1998-2009
- 12) Decalogue Society "Tablets" columnist from 1994 until 2009

Recent CLE

CBA, Criminal Law Committee Meeting, US Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, 3/14/06

Decalogue Society of Lawyers, 39 S. LaSalle, Lecture Series, Professor Ralph Ruebner, Recent Supreme Court Cases, April/06

CBA, Election Law Committee Meeting, recent cases, 7/14/06

Cook County Mandatory Arbitration and Mediation, Daley Center, Refresher arbitrator training, 08/08/07

CBA, Civil Rights and Constitutional Law Committee Meeting, Speech by Charlie Savage, 12/03/07

CBA, Criminal Law Committee Meeting, Ed Genson--Defense Trial Strategy in High Profile Cases, 01/08/08

ALA, Cook County Appellate Court Election--candidate forum, CBA, 01/08

CBA, CLE, Professional Ethics and the Media in Criminal Cases, 03/03/08

Decalogue Society of Lawyers, 39 S. LaSalle, Lecture Series, Deborah Pergament and Eugene Pergament, Medical and Legal Perspectives on Jewish Genetic Disorders, 04/30/08

CBA Human Rights Committee and the ISBA Standing Committee on Women and the Law and Minority and Women Participation, Symposium, Douglas Cassel--Notre Dame Law School Center for Civil and Human Rights, Standard Club, Modern Day Slavery, 05/01/08,

Union League Club, Debate between Cook County State's Attorney candidates, 09/08

CBA, Criminal Law Committee, Public Defender Ed Burnette, 09/09/08

John Howard Association Annual Meeting, Cultural Center, Jon Coleman on Guantanamo cases/defendants, 09/11/08

CBA, Criminal Law Committee, CC State's Attorney Dick Devine, 10/14/08

CBA, CLE, Collateral Remedies in Criminal Cases, 11/06/08

CBA, Criminal Law Committee Meeting, Judge Gregory Vazquez on Polygraph Testing, 12/09/08

CBA, Criminal Law Committee Meeting, retired judge Sheila Murphy on the death penalty and economics, 01/13/09

CBA and Illinois Judges Association, 8 O'Clock Call, Breakfast with Law Division Judges, CBA, 01/16/09

CBA, Alliance for Women Committee, A Lawyer's Guide to Dealing With the Media, CBA, 1/27/09

CBA, Criminal Law Committee meeting, February 10, 2009, former judge Joe Romano on being a judge and an attorney in private practice

Decalogue Society of Lawyers, seminar--"The 'Mezuzah' Case," DePaul University School of Law, February 26, 2009

Decalogue Society of Lawyers, lecture, Israeli law school professor Sandy Kedar on the Israeli Supreme Court, Law Firm, February 26, 2009

CBA, 8 O'Clock Call, CBA and IJA, Chancery Judge James Epstein and 1st Municipal judges Kenneth Wright, Lori Wolfson, Patrick Sherlock, Leonard Murray, Daniel Gillespie and Moira Johnson, 03/06/09, CBA

CBA, Criminal Law Committee, Presiding Judge Paul Biebel, Criminal Court update, 03/10/09, CBA

Chicago Headline Club, Ethical Journalism in a Digital World, Poynter, 03/14/09, Union League

Decalogue Society of Lawyers Lecture Series, Judge Ron Davis, Motions in the Law Division, 03/18/09, Decalogue office

Niagara Foundation, Police Chief Jody Weis, 03/18/09, Niagara office

IVI-IPO, Women Rising to the Bench (Reed, Chevere, Mills, Rovner), 03/28/09, Union League Club

CBA, Criminal Law Committee, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, prosecuting of corruption cases, 04/14/09, CBA

CBA, 8 O'Clock Call, CBA and IJA, Mortgage Foreclosures with Judges Jesse Reyes, Carolyn Quinn, Lewis Nixon, James Epstein and Kenneth Wright, 05/08/09, CBA

Schopf & Weiss, Movies on Trial, My Cousin Vinny, Judge Matthew Kennelly, Bob Clifford (Clifford Law Offices), Steven Weiss (S & W), and Tom Durkin (Mayer, Brown), 05/08/09, Music Box

CBA, Criminal Law Committee, Illinois Supreme Court clerk Michelle Jochner, Recent 4th Amendment Issues, 05/12/09, CBA

Near South Planning Board, Commissioners of the Departments of Zoning and Planning and Community Development, 05/15/09, South Loop Hotel

ABA Criminal Justice Section/Better Government Association, Shining Light on the freedom of Information Act, Panel Discussion including AG Lisa Madigan, 06/04/09, Union League Club

CBA, Criminal Law Committee, defense lawyer Ralph Meczyk, 06/09/09, CBA

WBAI, An evening with Laura Caldwell, Loyola University of Chicago Law School, 08/04/09, Jenner & Block

CBA, Election Law Committee, Secretary of State Jesse White spokesman Dave Druker, 9/11/09, CBA

CBA, Election Law Committee, Heads of the electoral boards of the State, County and City discussing various issues of ballot access, 10/02/09, CBA

CBA, Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges Conference, Diversity on the Back Burner; Diversity in Leadership; Carol Robles-Roman, Deputy Mayor of Legal Affairs and Counsel to the Mayor, New York City; Business Opportunities, 2016; Ethics 2010-- Illinois' New Approach to Ethics; Diversity in the Era of Obama, 10/09/09, CBA and Standard Club

CBA, Seminar: Running for Public Office, 10/14/09, CBA

CBA, Election Law Committee, current trends in making objections, 11/13/09. CBA

Boards

1) John Howard Association, (1997-present, prison reform--former board secretary, testified on behalf of the organization in front of the County Board, co-edited a book of writings of incarcerated youth; and participated on several panels on the topic for various groups, as well as writing various reports and articles about frequent visits to jails and prisons)

2) South Loop Neighbors (2002-present, former board secretary)

3) Chicago Headline Club (2003-present)

4) Dearborn Park Advisory Council (2000-present)

5) Chicago Homes of Dearborn Park Homeowners Association (2004-present, board secretary)

6) Agent for: South Loop Neighbors, Chicago Homes of Dearborn Park Homeowners Association and Association for Women Journalists

Former Board Involvement

- 1) Chicago Women in Trades
- 2) South Loop Education Alliance
- 3) Association for Women Journalists--(treasurer, 1998-2007)
- 4) IVI-IPO (board secretary)
- 5) Anixter Center Human Rights Committee
- 6) Lekotek Center advisory council
- 7) Association of Condominiums, Townhomes and Homeowners Associations
- 8) Dearborn Park 2 (DP2) Garden Club, 1995-96

Television Appearances

Can-TV--Judicial elections

Channel 7 ABC news--judicial elections

MSNBC--vehicle seizure in DUI cases

Radio interviews

WLS Radio

Columbia College Radio

Other Community Involvement

- 1) Docent, Glessner House Museum and Clark House
- 2) Member, two neighborhood book clubs
- 3) Active member, Intuit Gallery for Outsider Art
- 4) BOSS Members Council, Shedd Aquarium

- 5) Volunteer, International Visitors Center of Chicago
- 6) Active member, Geographic Society of Chicago
- 7) Member, Alliance of Latinos and Jews
- 8) Active Member, Best Buddies, Illinois
- 9) Parent Coordinator, Project Onward Art Studio, Cultural Center, Chicago
- 10) Active member, Illinois Women's Press Association
- 11) Chicago Journal Blog: "South Loop Observer"
- 12) Tap Dancing class, Homer Bryant's Multicultural Dance Center, and Pilates Class, FFC-South Loop
- 13) Active Member of all major museums in Chicago

Past Professions of Note

- 1) Telephone Installer, Illinois Bell, 1973-1978 (member, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, local 165)
- 2) Columnist, Chicago Tribune, 1991-1994
- 3) Contributing writer, Chicago SunTimes, Chicago Reader--over three decades, Contributing Editor, Lake Magazine, Shore Magazine and contributing writer, Get Healthy magazine, Editor of syndicated column, "The Medical Heretic," 1985-1987, freelanced for every major publication in Chicago,
- 4) Community and employee relations, Shedd Aquarium. 1978-1980.
- 5) Reporter, City News Bureau of Chicago, 1980-81
- 6) Articles have been included in two published anthologies of women's issues, 1975 and 1990
- 7) Media Columnist, Naperville City Star, 1989-90

Past Non-Legal Speaking Engagements of Note

- 1) Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism, Evanston

- 2) La Leche League, Chicago
- 3) Community Associations Institute, Roselle
- 4) Chicago Public Schools, Chicago
- 5) Illinois Women's Press Association, Chicago
- 6) Chicago Headline Club, Chicago

Other notable accomplishments

Subject of an article in the ABA Journal, 2001, on fitness and lawyers

Subject of articles on being an early female member of the trades, 1970s

Subject of articles serving community groups interested in prison reform, autism, etc.

Garnered many endorsements from diverse groups during judicial runs in 1998, 2000

Education

University of Illinois, BS, Community Health, 1971

University of Missouri, MS, Public Health, 1972

John Marshall Law School, JD, 1993

Admitted to practice law in the State of Illinois and the Northern District of Illinois, 1993